**Report on Review Meeting for 2014 Work-Plan**

**IITA-Ghana Conference Hall, Tamale February 21**, **2014**

**Agenda**

1. *Introduction*
2. *Comment Mali report*
3. *Review of work packages*
4. *AOB*

**Introduction**

In fulfilling the objectives of Africa RISING project on sustainable intensification and integration of natural resources to increase productivity and reduce hunger and poverty. A review planning meeting on work-packages for 2014 season was held. At the start of the meeting, all participants introduced themselves and the institution they represented. After the introduction, the Africa RISING Chief Scientist and Country representative of IITA, Ghana welcomed everybody to the meeting and stated the objectives of the meeting. In his opening remark, he stated that the meeting was organized to finalize work on the various work packages to be submitted to the project management committee. It was observed that some major project partner could not attend the meeting and for that reason Dr Larbi advised that the review is limited to only work-packages of the partners present.

**Brief comment on Mali Trip**

After briefing participants on the objectives of the meeting, a presentation was made by Dr. Asamoah Larbi on the review of events at Mali work-plan planning meeting which was attended by some selected project partners. He directed that all persons in charge of data analysis and reports to complete their work by the second week of March, 2013. He ended this session by stating that is very important to consider suggestions made to the Ghana team in Mali to improve 2014 work schedules.

**Review of Work packages**

Dr Larbi mentioned that about ten (10) different work-packages were presented at Mali in all the project thematic areas. He clarifies that the Ghana project team was advised to merges some of the work-packages to reduce the numbers for easy and effective management. Gender, nutrition and water management work-packages were said to cut across all work packages. Below are some of the suggestions made to improve on the work-packages.

**Crop Work Packages**

A review of crop work-package was done by the participants under ongoing and new activity. The ongoing activities reviewed include cowpea varietal trial, soybean varietal trial and new activities also include pigeon pea varietal trial. The rest of the ongoing activity discussed were Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) soybean trial, cowpea varietal and spraying regime trial and Maize varietal and fertilizer rate trial. Some of the new activities discussed were cereal-legume mixed cropping (strip, relay and rotation). It was also suggested that vegetable work-package should be integrated into the crop work-package

The group agreed that, all 2013 activities should be continued in 2014 season and that Mother trials should have equal number of trials per region. The table below showed the agreed location of proposed intercropping trials

**Table1: List of intercropping systems and regions to establish them**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Crop Combination | Region | | |
| Northern | Upper East | Upper West |
| Maize +Groundnut |  |  |  |
| Maize + Cowpea |  |  |  |
| Maize + Soybean |  |  |  |
| Sorghum+ Groundnut |  |  |  |
| Sorghum+ Cowpea |  |  |  |
| Sorghum+ Soybean |  |  |  |
| Millet+ Groundnut |  |  |  |
| Millet+ Cowpea |  |  |  |
| Millet+ Soybean |  |  |  |

**Crop-Livestock Work-package**

There were no ongoing activities under this work-package and suggestions were made on new activities to be implemented. New activities suggested include;

1. Corralling of ruminants for manure effects on food/feed yields and soil, water and plant resources
2. Cover cropping for integrating crops and livestock production systems and
3. Thinning and stripping crops and leaves for bridging the annual feed gaps in the project area.

**Water Management**

A presentation on water management work-package for 2014 was presented by Tim Ellis from IWMI. He outlined procedures they intend to use which include visit to all Africa RISING sites, examine crop livestock work-packages, trade-off water management option at village scale, enterprise scale and value of water (when the water should be added). During his presentation a questions was posed to him on strategies he would adopt to enhanced effective and efficient use of water on crop fields and water used by animal. He answered by stating that he will review IWMI’s work-package to address some of the challenges mentioned. Dr. Ellis was advised to develop simple trials to be superimposed on some of the other work-packages

**A. O. B.**

General issues on personnel, office space and capacity building were also discussed. The Chief Scientist said where necessary regional heads should look for warehouse available in town and inform the central office about it. He also announced that there would also be a 2 weeks statistical training workshop SAS in April, 2014. On the issue of capacity building for farmers, Dr Larbi informed that Mr. Wunpini (A renowned agro chemical dealer in Tamale) would assist in training farmers on how to use agro-inputs. Table 2: present the personnel of the various regional research teams

**5. Conclusion**

From the meeting, it was concluded that:

1. All activities reviewed are feasible and achievable.
2. Partner institutions should work hard towards successful implementation of activities in an integrated manner.

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**Attendance List**

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| **Name** | **Institution** |
| Asamoah Larbi | Africa RISING Chief Scientist |
| Tim Ellis | IWMI-Ghana |
| Akakpo Daniel Brain | IITA |
| Shaibu Mellon | IITA |
| Abdul Rahman Nurudeen | PhD Student (KNUST) |
| Sarfo Kantanka Goodman | PhD Student |
| Hamid Seidu | IITA-WA |
| Ismael Mahama | IITA-WA |
| Umar Mohammed | MoFA-WA |
| Desire Dickson Naab | IITA Wa |
| Fuseni Abdulai | IITA- Tamale |
| Comfort Yelipoie | IITA-Tamale |

**Report compiled by:**

Abdul Rahman Nurudeen and

Sarfo Kantanka Goodman.